

## Options for the Management of Terrorism in Nigeria: a Rational Approach

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### Abstract

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The fight against terrorism has established global efforts in fighting the menace. This paper examines the danger posed by terrorists' acts on the Nigerian economy. In so doing the meaning of terrorism was discussed, causes of terrorism were identified; the tactics, challenges and mechanism in controlling terrorism were noted. The paper attempts to explore the history and philosophy behind terrorism in Nigeria as well highlighting the socio-economic effects posed by terrorist acts.

### Keywords:

Terrorism; Nigeria;  
Management;  
Rational approach

### **Background to the Study**

The vulnerability of terrorism globally attests that the act poses various threats to National Security. It is an unjustifiable acts whatever the aims of their authors might be; whose deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civil populations, which under the law of international jurisprudence considers a crime when committed in times of war, can also be considered extremely serious in times of peace. The effect of terrorist acts has pushed so many countries specifically, Nigeria, deepening socio-economic contradictions that adversely affected economic sustainability, damage to public property, endangers lives of civil populace, causes death and bodily harm, mass exodus as well as displacement of human race. Finally, the paper tries to examine the various forms adopted by perpetrators such as bombing, kidnapping, suicide attack, hostage taking among others. Abolurin (2011) the act has assumed a global dimension and is a threat to corporate existence of any nation. The study suggested mechanism in managing the monster.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to examine the vulnerability of terrorism and specifically the best option of managing the menace.

### **Understanding the Concept of Terrorism**

According to Hoff man (1999), the concept of terrorism is politically and emotionally charged; and this greatly compounds the many difficulties of giving the exact definitions. Also Ahmeed (2009) refutes that the international communities have never succeeded in developing an acceptable comprehensive definition of terrorism. This, the United Nations attempts to define the term terrorism due to differences of opinion between various members about the use of violence in the context of conflicts over national liberation and self determination. However, the United Nations defines the term as criminal acts, intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public; a group of person for political purposes are in any circumstances unjustifiable; whatever the consideration of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other motive that may be invoked to justify them; Also an August 30, 2005; the Federal Executive Council submitted a draft on anti-terrorism bill to the Nigerian National Assembly for passage into law, defines terrorism as any actions seriously damage the country or an international organization to perform or abstain from performing an action or seriously intimidate or destabilize a population. This could include the use of terrorist ends of propaganda; violence, kidnapping attacks on infrastructure; the hijacking of vehicles, ships; the acquisition or development of nuclear; biological weapons; the release of dangerous substances or arson. Also, Yehuda (2001); Nasser (2002); Alade (2003) Sharmau (2006) Daniyan(2005) and Musam (2008) agreed that terrorism as indiscriminate murder of innocent civilians to advance political, or religious or individualistic objectives. From the various definitions examined, we can draw a conclusion that the definition of terrorism is controversial but agreed on some basic common elements such as violent victimization; destruction of property, exploitation of the media, violation of criminal law, endanger of life or any action to induce fear or induce any government.

## **History of Terrorism**

Terrorism is a scourge that takes innocent lives; threatens values of humanity, human rights and freedoms and impedes development and world progress. Religion provides the main justification for the use of terrorism. This, the act of terrorism are perpetrated by radical off shoot of the zealots; a Jewish sect in Judea during the first century AD. According to Abolurin (2001) the zealots opposed the Roman Empires rule of what is known as the Israel through a determined campaign that involved assassination through the use of primitive dagger to attack those targeted in a feast period or market and was done in a broad daylight as way of communicating intended actions to a wider targeted audience.

Also, an Islamic movement against the Christian crusaders in 1090 and 1272; used similar tactics by invading Syria; such actions were viewed as self-sacrifice and suicidal martyrdom as a sacramental or divine act that ensured its perpetrators would ascend to a heaven should they perish during such ugly task. Also, the French Revolution between 1789- 1799 and 1800; witnessed another terrorist act against the divine rule of the monarchs. Governor general, St. Peterburg; the head of the Tsarist secret police and the Tsar were the targets.

In March 1881, Tsar Alexander II was assassinated by a member of the people will in France. Anarchists assassinated Wil Mckintery, an America president, the president of France, Spanish Prime Minister; Empress Elizabeth of Austria and key Humbert I of Italy. In 1886, a bomb exploded in Italy market, Che capo; organized by 3,000 striking workers; seven police men were killed and sixty. The act continued / even a Bosnia Serb, Gavillo Princip, murdered an Austria just to free his country from dependence.

The act of terrorism exhibited by Gavillo Principal traced the support of his action to the government of Serbian that provided arms training, intelligence and other assistance to a variety of similar revolutionary movements in the neighboring nations as it today with the Boko Haram insurgency (Nigeria); HAMAS (Palestine); Hizbollah (Lebanon); Jamaah Islamiya (Sudan); Asbat al-Ansar (Lebanon); Revolutionary Armed Forces (Colombia); Al-shabab (Somalia) and Ansa - a (Iraq); Armed Islamic Group (Algeria) and the recent ISIS. The growing phenomenon of terrorism in different states has different motives and employed different approaches as the case of Germany, Italy and Soviet 1920 and 1930; that was anticipated with repressive practices against Nazist, fascist and totalitarian regimes that were employed against the citizens through the unlawful detention; tortures; and all forms of intimidation.

## **Types of Terrorism**

Terrorist constitute serious challenges to human race. Goldstein (2008) opines that researchers in the United States indentified different types of terrorism either domestically or internationally. Some types of terrorism that are common include the following;

**a. International Terrorism**

This type of terrorism is a global phenomenon. It is practiced in a foreign country by terrorists who are not native to that country.

**b. Domestic Terrorism**

It is the unlawful use of force or violence committed by a group(s) of two or more individuals against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government; the overpopulation; or any as in the case of recent bombing of Nigeria Police Force Headquarter, Abuja; June 16, 2011; Boko Haram attack; July 26; 2009. Polling centre bombing Maiduguri, April 9 2011 and bombed St. Patricks Catholic Church, Maiduguri, July 1, 2011.

**c. Political Terrorism**

This terrorism is politically motivated and oriented. It is also view as a political crime based on aims and ideological motives.

**d. State Terrorism**

State terrorism occurs when the national government aids tends to further their own foreign policy and goals. It is also referred to as state-sponsored terrorism. The state government supplies arms, money and safe haven to terrorists.

**e. Religious Terrorism**

This terrorism is rooted in faith based ideology. Its aims are based on the interpretation of that belief systems and teaching.

**f. Suicide Terrorism**

Suicide terrorism is one of the commonly noticed terrorism in most countries. It is described as politically motivated violent attack perpetrated by self-aware individual that became instrumental to his or her death. As the case of September 11, 2001, attack on World Trade Centre, Nigeria Police Force Headquarter, Abuja.

**g. Bio-Terrorism**

This form of terrorism is described as intentional of toxic biological and chemical to harm the civilian population or community, such toxic could be Anthrax, small pox; hemorrhagic fever, ebola virus.

**h. Cyber Terrorism**

It can be described as a crime targeting computer networks without necessary affecting the world infrastructure, lives and property. But could disrupt information in the computer through the means of ... that could lead to lost of information through that process. While others include Nuclear Terrorism (Nuclear materials) Narco Terrorism (Drug trafficking); Eco Terrorism (Environment Damage) and Nationalistic Terrorism.

### Causes of Terrorism

There are reasons that adduced terrorism. Thus, terrorism is described as a crime against humanity but also has a political choice individualistic motive. Kegley (1990) identifies political oppression; extreme poverty and the violation of basic human rights as the breeding grounds of extremism and terrorism. As shared by Raji (2001); Zarri (2001) and Pierre (2001) identify political, religious, poverty, ignorance, misery, famine, social exclusion and marginalization as possible causes of terrorism. From the multi-faceted and different scope of terrorism, we can infer that the factors mentioned above are the ones that triggered terrorism in a state. Also were citizens or aggrieved groups lack state recognizes and are grieved under poverty where survival is for the fittest that also aggravate armed record, leading to protest or adopting any measures to curtail the self actualization. These are over whelming evidence that the country is tagged of the poorest country in the sub-Saharan region. The table below provide an understanding of poverty human index in Nigeria.

### See Table in Poverty Human Index in Nigeria

**Table 1: Relate Poverty: Head count in Nigeria 1980 2000**

Year	Poverty Incidence	Estimated Population	Population Index Poverty
1980	27.2	65	17.1
1988	46.3	75	34.7
1992	42.9	91.5	39.2
1996	65.6	102.3	67.1
2004	54.4	126.3	68.7
2015	69.0	163	112.47

**Source:** NBS Harmonized Living Standard Survey 2015

**Table 2: Relative Poverty: Non Poor Moderately Proves and Extremely Poor**

Year	Non-poor	Moderately Poor	Extremely Poor
1980	72.8	21.0	6.2
1985	53.7	34.2	12.1
1992	57.3	28.9	13.9
1996	34.4	36.3	29.3
2004	43.4	32.4	22.0
2010	31.0	30.3	39.7

**Source:** NBS Harmonized Living Standard Survey, 2010

### Tactics Adopted by Terrorists

There are scholarly explanation on tactics adopted by terrorists, thus Abolurin (2011) explains the practical methodology most terrorists adopt to perpetrate their dastardly act of terrorism. Some of these tactics employed by the use weapons of mass destruction (WMD); produced explosives (bombs); threatening, hacking; kidnapping; letter bomb; five arms; suicide attacks; school shooting; insurgency; hostage-taking; air-craft

hijacking; individual terror; bio approach; nuclear or cyber terrorism. As in Nigeria, some tactics adopted by Boko Haram in some major cities through the use of explosives. 2010, 1 October Abuja at Eagle Square; 2010; December, Jos Christmas Eve; 2011; April 6, Kaduna (National Eye Centre). There are so many methods as explained by specialist in the field of terrorism. Other tactics include kidnapping attack, hostages it: see table of experience of kidnapping and hostages.

**Incidences of Terrorist Acts – See Table of Kidnapping**  
**Table 1: Statistics on Kidnapping in Nigeria: 2008-2010**

State	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year Jan-June 2010	Total
Abia	15	13	40	68
Abuja FCT	1	9	10	19
Adamawa	1	12	5	18
Akwa Ibom	14	80	6	100
Anambra	7	124	60	191
Bauchi	0	4	5	9
Bayelsa	10	3	0	13
Benue	0	2	0	2
Borno	0	3	2	6
Cross River	19	11	8	38
Delta	16	53	16	85
Ebonyi	10	0	5	15
Edo	7	96	63	166
Ekiti	0	4	1	5
Enugu	0	10	4	14
Gombe	0	8	6	14
Imo	8	40	13	61
Jigawa	0	4	3	7
Kaduna	1	4	5	10
Kano	1	2	2	2
Katsina	0	0	2	2
Kebbi	0	1	1	2
Kogi	3	2	4	9
Kwara	0	6	9	39
Lagos	13	6	10	26
Nasarawa	0	12	6	18
Niger	0	15	4	19
Ogun	3	14	9	26
Ondo	0	3	5	8
Osun	0	0	5	5
Oyo	0	0	7	7
Plateau	0	5	12	17
Rivers	62	110	44	212
Sokoto	0	0	0	0
Taraba	0	5	0	5
Yobe	0	0	0	0
zamfara	0	2	2	4

**Source:** Federal Ministry of Interior, 2010

**Table 2: Foreign Hostages in Nigeria between 2006 and 2010**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Foreign Hostages Attack/Release</b>
1.	January 10, 2006	Militants kidnapped 4 foreign workers from an offshore platform and released them January 30
2.	Feb 18, 2006	MEND rebels attacked an oil barge and seized 9 hostages: 3 American; 2 Egyptians, 2 Thais, a Filipino, and a Briton. All but (2) Americans and a Briton were released on March 1; the three others were r March 27.
3.	May 11, 2006	Vito Mac an Italian, and two other employee of Saipem were abducted and freed the next day.
4.	October 3, 2006	A militant group abducted 4 Scots, a Malaysian; an Indonesian and a Romanian from a bar in Akwa Ibom State.
5.	Jan 10, 2007	9 South Koreans and 1 Nigerian working for Daewoo Engineering and Construction in Yenagoa were abducted, but freed on Jan. 12.
6.	May 1, 2007	MEND seized 6 expatriate workers from an offshore oil facility owned by Chevron. The group of 6 consisted of 4 Italians, an American and a Croat. On the same day, MEND published photos of the captives seated on white plastic chairs in a wooden shelter t4round the remains of a campfire.
7.	May 3, 2007	MEND seized 8 foreign hostages from another offshore vessel. The hostages were however released less than 24 hours later, stating they had intended to destroy the vessel and did not want more hostages.
8.	May 25, 2007	The pipe lay barge LB 300 (owned by Trans costal Offshore)was attacked a few hundred metre off the Sangana community coastline, near the Aunty Juli Platform. A South African, 4 Britons and Americans, and 1 Nigerian were kidnapped. All were employees of Hydro dive. They were held for 19 days in basic conditions and were on occasion subjected to mock executions. MEND claimed responsibility and at one point announced to the national press that all the hostages were to be executed. They were all released unharmed.

9. July 8, 2009 A Bulgarian and 9 Britons working for Expro group were abducted from a barge near Calabar in Cross River State. They were released August 8.
10. Sept 9, 2008 British oil workers, Robin Barry Hughes and Matthew John Maguire were kidnapped along with 27 other workers when their vessel was hijacked by MEND militants. As at February 2009, they were still held hostage but they have since been released.
- 11, Jan 21, 2009 rebels from the Niger Delta attacked the tanker MT Meredith, filled with diesel fuel, and kidnapped a Romanian worker.
12. April 16, 2009 Julie Ann Mulhjat, a Canadian in 1' on a Rotary International exchange was taken hostage, and \$700,000 was demanded before the hostage takers went down to \$1 36 They released her on Wednesday April 29. She came home Friday, May 1.
13. Jan 12, 2010 Britons and a Colombian workinh for Neteo were kidnapped when their convoy was attacked near Port Harcourt.
14. April 2010 A Nigerian employee of Total was kidnapped by unknown men in Southern Nigeria.

**Source:** Federal Ministry of Interior, Nigeria 2011

### **Options in Controlling Terrorism**

Terrorism has taken a dangerous dimension in Nigeria and neighbouring countries. The option to manage terrorism or insurgency could be adopted as according to Fulga (2005) opines that the right against terrorism requires an active collaboration within the international community by using all the political, economic, diplomatic and military measures as well as the legal frame work, in keeping with international laws. It means security agencies in nation-states need to collaborate; share information and intelligence as well as strategies on how to effectively detect define, monitor and control the scourge of terrorism and other related crimes. It is evident that most terrorist groups has collaboration with other terrorists in other nation-states as the case of Boko Haram sect in Nigeria and Al shabab and Al qeada. The Boko Haram Group also known as Jama'hatu Ahliss Sunnah Lidda' awati wal Jihad ahd training in Algeria, North Africa to learn how to make improvised Explosive Devices ( which as now being used to terrorise Nigeria. Also in managing terrorism Chalk (1996) that counter-terrorism measures should be pursued from human right perspective. He notes that such an approach will tackle terrorism directly, including asymmetrical power relations, inequality, rising poverty

and illiteracy among others. He urged elders and youths leaders in communities where terrorist abound to be involved in the genuine efforts to tackle terrorism as well as government must strive to meet the basic needs and legitimate government of ordinary people.

Also in curbing the negative effects of terrorism, there must be genuine reforms in economic and political sphere of a country as well making the war against terrorism broader and sophisticated. Good governance should be encouraged; catch-conflict young syndrome and the use of dialogue; mediation; negotiation; involvement of traditional rulers as a feature of integrated conflict management approach should be practically put into practice. Also, government should sensitize the majoritarian populace to be vigilant and report any suspicious character to law enforcement agencies. Abolurin (2011) opines everyone needs to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies so as to build up the state. Roosevelt (2014) opines that Nigeria also entered into pacts with foreign nations like United States of America; France; United Kingdom; Israel, Cameroun, Niger and Chad combat the activities of terrorists groups. Other safety measures include installation of surveillance camera and CCIV to prevent attacks.

### **Danger Poised by Terrorism and State Economy**

Terrorism has a lot of significant effects on the economy in which they take place. it is also a threat to national and international community as well as greatest dangers to human society. Persitv (2005) argued that Israel's low private savings rate since 1980s is a result of political instability. Also, Zellen (2004) terrorists' attacks on food supply sector termed agro terrorism include the contamination of food processing and distribution systems through exposure to chemical radiological or biological agents; and/or physical destruction of crops.

It means when terrorists attack it affects food supply and also three major effects take place which are economic destruction, loss of political support and confidence, and social instability. A practical instance of the effects of terrorist attack as according to Abolurin (2011) opines that terrorist attack in the United States have complex repercussion on financial markets (World Trade Centre) as well as undermining the ability of the United States and the International financial system. Terrorism is a negative process and threats to security, it impedes development and consumers life, income and destroys property and infrastructure meant for the benefits of the masses. Terrorism causes untold damage to humanity and the environment and a menace to be totally eradicated as in the North-east of Nigeria. To buttress the school of thought that quantifying risk, terrorism is seen under two major factors, mathematically;  $Risk = threat \times consequences$ .

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical frame work adopted for the study is the Crenshaw (1981) rational approach argues that terrorism is most definitely not the product of individual decisions or personal development but is as a result of a group process and its collective rational decision. In the same vein, Hudson (1999) asserts that the organisational approach may be relevant for groups that exhibit more traditional structures with clear chains of

command other than loose terrorist networks. Therefore, the assumption of the theoretical approach attests the foci of attention are therefore similar to the psychological approach that focus on the individual characteristics of individual terrorist or the group as a whole. Psychological approach examines the behaviour, individual profiles, recruitment methods; and causes of terrorism. The approach adopted can find answers to under study why terrorists involve in such action.

### **Conclusion**

From the fore going, it is evident that terrorism has become a greatest challenge particularly in the North east Nigeria. Gupta (2003), terrorism should not be treated as a law and order problem but a war, as a terrorist is not an ordinary law breaker bat an enemy soldier of a particularly heinous kind. Finally, this paper's attempts have been made to examine the issues, causes, effects of terrorism and positive recommendations were made.

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